

Message Text

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44

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EUR-12 ACDA-07 OMB-01 /090 W

----- 002572

R 151400Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY SANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8843

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA JWTWU

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SANA 2863

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA, YE

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT AL-HAMDI'S DEPARTURE FOR NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT

1. PRESIDENT IBRAHIM MUHAMMAD AL-HAMDI LEFT SANA
ON AUGUST 14, TO ATTEND THE NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT
CONFERENCE IN COLOMBO.

2. ON HIS DEPARTURE IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT HE WOULD
SEEK TO PERSUADE THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE TO FOCUS ON
THE PROBLEM OF LEBANON AND "TO GIVE OBSERVER STATUS TO THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA."

3. NEITHER PROPOSAL SEEMS LIKELY TO WIN HAMDI THE ATTENTION
AND PRAISE HE SEEKS AT THE CONFERENCE AS A DISTINCTIVE NEW
THIRD WORLD LEADER.

3. AT HIS DEPARTURE, HOWEVER, COMMENT FOCUSED ON THE
FACT THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME HE WAS NOT USING THE SPECIAL
AIRPLANE PROVIDED FOR THE LAST TWO YEARS BY THE SOVIET UNION FOR
TRAVEL
BY YARG PRESIDENTS. HE USED ONE OF YEMEN AIRLINES TWO BOEINGS, BOTH
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WETLEASED FROM A US COMPANY. (IN THE PROCESS HE FORCED THE AIRLINE TO

CANCEL HALF OF ITS SCHEDULED FLIGHTS. ACCORDING TO INFORMED SOURCE
IN THE REPUBLICAN PALACE, SOVIET PLANE NEEDS MAINTENANCE AND FOR THE
FIRST TIME SOVIETS ARE DEMANDING MORE THAN NOMANAL FEE. ACCORDING
TO PALACE SOURCE, THE FEE HAS ALWAYS BEEN \$10,000 A YEAR PLUS
QUARTERS FOR SOVIET CREW. PLANE WAS A SYMBOL OF SPECIAL
RELPIONSHIP. SOVIETS ARE NOW DEMANDING ONE AND HALF MILLION
DOLLARS FOR OVERHAUL PLUS QUARTERS AND SALARIES FOR CREW IN
FUTURE. YEMENIS WILL NOT PAY.
RANSOM

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NNN

Message Attributes

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